BATMAN®

YEAR 100

2 of 4

by
PAUL POPE

with
JOSE VILLARRUBIA

BATMAN: YEAR 100
3 of 4 by PAUL POPE

letters JARED K. FLETCHER + JOHN WORKMAN colorist JOSE VILLARRUBIA

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

PRIORITY NOTICE TO ALL AGENTS CONNECTED TO CASE #312163221-A

FROM: FPC HEAD DIVSION, WASH. DC
CLASSIFIED/INTERNAL BRANCH MEMO ONLY/DO NOT CIRCULATE

REPORT CONCERNING CASE #312163221-A (SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM," GOTHAM CITY, 11-28-39) NOTICE TO ALL AGENTS-FOLLOWING THE UNAVOIDABLE PUBLIC RELEASE OF 911-THREADS CALLED IN TO GCPD DISPATCH BRANCH #15 (CONCERNING INITIAL SIGHTINGS OF SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM" BY RESIDENTS OF THE 200-300 BLOCK CYPRESS AVE., GOTHAM CITY, 11-28-39), THE FOLLOWING ORDERS ARE NOW ISSUED:

1.)- NO AGENT(S) CONNECTED TO CASE #312163221-A WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING ANY DETAIL(S) OF THIS ONGOING INVESTIGATION, NOR ARE AGENTS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE STATEMENTS EITHER CONFIRMING OR DENYING EXISTENCE OF SO-CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM." NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE REFER ALL FURTHER PUBLIC OR MEDIA-SOURCE INQUIRIES TO THE FPC OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS.

2.)- AGENTS ARE ORDERED TO PRIVATELY MAINTAIN AN ABSOLUTE STANDARD OF STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY REGARDING ANY AND ALL ASPECTS OF THE ONGOING CASE INVESTIGATION. AGENTS ARE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN IN ANY WAY TO SPEAK, WRITE, OR OTHERWISE TRANSMIT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE SPECIFICS, TO INSINUATE, OR TO OTHERWISE SPECULATE ON ANY ASPECT OF THIS INVESTIGATION WITH ANY PERSON OR PERSONS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE ONGOING FPC INVESTIGATION. AGENTS MAY ONLY DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATION TEAM. ANY VIOLATION OF THESE EDICTS WILL BE PUNISHED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

THESE POLICY ORDERS SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL OR UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED OFFICIALLY BY FPC HEAD DIVISION.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL SUMMATION OF MINUTES OF CASE #312163221-A, 11-28-39 --DO NOT CIRCULATE--

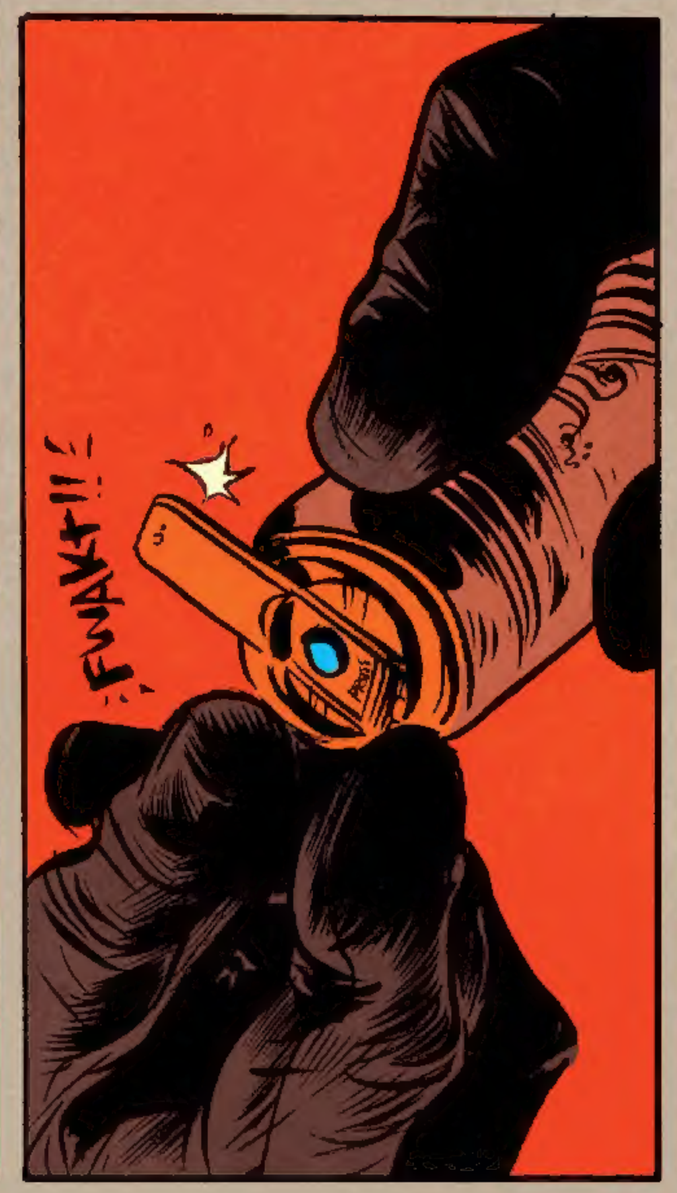
THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL POST-ANALYSIS STATEMENT OF THE MINUTES OF CASE #312163221-A (AS PROVIDED BY FPC HEAD DIV., WASH. DC) IS ISSUED DIRECTLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY TO ALL AGENTS ACTING ON CASE #312163221-A ONLY. PLEASE DISREGARD ALL MEDIA REPORTS REGARDING THIS CASE. ALL FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRIES ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICES OF FPC AGENT MERCER OR FPC AGENT TIBBLE.

1.)- FOLLOWING THE INITIAL 11:12 PM CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AGENTS OF THE GOTHAM FPC WOLVES POLICE TEAM AND SO-CALLED BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS "SUSPECT") IN ADAMS STREET SUBWAY STATION, SUSPECT WAS LAST SEEN FLEEING FROM STATION ON FOOT VIA THE NW END OF TRACK 6 ON THE F-LINE TRAIN. ONE FPC AGENT (#34112) WAS REPORTED AS DEAD ON THE SCENE, VICTIM OF GUNFIRE-CAUSE OF DEATH: MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS (SEE ATTACHED REPORT FROM FPC MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE). FOR THE FOLLOWING TEN MINUTES, SUSPECT WAS UNDETECTED BY AGENTS ON THE GROUND.

DISPATCH COPTERS WERE DEPLOYED, PATROLLING A ONE-HALF-MILE RADIUS AROUND THE SIX NEAREST SUBWAY EXITS, ORDERED TO SPREAD OUT IN A QUARTER-MILE RADIUS FROM EACH F-LINE SUBWAY EXIT FOR EVERY ENSUING INTERVAL OF ONE MINUTE. DOGTEAMS AND GROUND TROOPS WERE AIRLIFTED TO SELECT AREA STRATEGIC POINTS, FOLLOWING ABELL-WORONORVIK PROCEDURAL FORMATION MODELS.

2.)- AT 11:22 PM, DOGTEAM-ALPHA DETECTED SUSPECT ON BUILDING ROOFTOP OF 200-300 CYPRESS AVE. BLOCK. SUSPECT WAS CHASED OVER ADJOINING ROOFTOPS OF BUILDINGS A AND B (SEE ATTACHED: MAP) BY DOGTEAM-ALPHA, THEN WAS SEEN TO CLEAR A 23-FOOT LEAP BETWEEN ROOFTOPS (EVENT RECORDED ON DOG-RETINA REMOTES, SEE ATTACHED FILE #21121-DTR) OF BUILDINGS B AND C).

BEEP BEEP BEEP


¡FWAK!!!

¡Beep!
KLAK

BOOM

MERCER, YOU WERE RIGHT! IT'S--

WHAT'S THIS? SOUND OFF!

CAPTAIN! LOOK!

I THINK I SEE SOMETHING-- MOVEMENT--

TO HELL WITH THIS-- OPEN FIRE!

APC

NO!

RAT-TA-TA-TAT

AIM LOW!

STOP, YOU FOOLS! STOP! WE'RE NOT AUTHORIZED TO-- *STOP!*

STOP SHOOTING!

PANT PANT

PLINK-TINK-TINK

HEADS ARE GONNA ROLL--

"GOTHAM TIGERS"-- YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED. IF HE'S BEEN KILLED--

GOT CARRIED AWAY, SIR!

ORDERS ARE TO LET ME *TALK* TO HIM--

NOTHIN' COULD'A SURVIVED THAT-- MUST'A BEEN A--

C'MON, LET'S--

JUST WAIT 'TIL I FILL OUT THE REPORT... YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A HELL OF A TIME EXPLAINING THIS IF--

GRRAWAO!

YAAAH!

CRACK!

MERCER! THAT FACE! DID'JA SEE IT!? IT AIN'T--

AIN'T HUMAN.

RRAW

RAT-TA-TA TAT

AAAH! OOOH! IT'S GOT ME!

IT'S GOT THE CAPTAIN! TOO CLOSE TO GET A GOOD SHOT!

HEADS! REQUESTIN' BACKUP! THIRTEETH FLOOR! WE NEED THE DOGS!

HEADS! WE GOT A FIFTEEN-TWELVE ON A TWO-SIXTEEN!

MAN IN A MASK-- JUST A MAN IN A--

POK!

BUMP-BA-BUMP

INCOMING! SOME KIND-- HE'S GOT SOME KINDA--

SSSHH

SSSHH

COUGH HACK HACK GAS MASKS!

KLOK KLOK

TORA--

I'M HERE, BOSS.

TORA, I'M IN-- WHERE'S THE LAB?

LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE-- OH, GOD--

DON'T FLIP-- YOU'RE COOL.

LET'S SEE-- OH, GOD--

THERE! ACCORDING TO THE FLOOR PLAN IT SHOULD BE THE NORTHWEST CORRIDOR ABOUT HALF-WAY DOWN--

GOT IT--

NOW WHAT?

NOW WHAT? I-- I DON'T KNOW!

DOC?

I'M WITH YOU, BATMAN-- I GOT YOU.

I'M JUST AT MY OFFICE NOW, ALL RIGHT.

:: BEEP ::

THESE PLACES ARE SET UP PRETTY MUCH ALL THE SAME. THERE SHOULD BE ROWS OF LONG CABINETS ALONG THE WAY. SEE 'EM?

I DO.

NOTHING BUT MEDICAL JUNK.

HANG ON.

THERE'S A LOT OF CABINETS.

TRY THE OTHER SIDE. TRY ALL OF 'EM.

WHAT'S THAT SOUND? BAT--

RATTLE-RATTLE-

PWSSHT

PWSSHT

HE'S SEALING THE DOOR, DOC. BUYING TIME.

SO THEY CAN'T BUST IN.

BAM

BAM BAM

WHICH ONE? WHICH ONE?

BASTARD MUST HAVE SOMETHING JAMMING THE DOOR--

AAARGH!

BAM

THERE.

BANG BAM BANG

I FOUND 'EM.

SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE IN THERE AS "UNIDENTIFIED"-- OR BY SOME OTHER INNOCUOUS-SOUNDING MARKER.

CHECK TO SEE IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING FROM LAST NIGHT, FROM THE CRIME SCENE.

DOC.

WHAT?

DOC. THE BLOOD SAMPLES--

--THERE'S DOZENS OF THEM.

AND THEY'RE ALL IDENTICAL.

IDENTICAL?

GOT A FIFTEEN-TWELVE ON A TWO-SIXTEEN! THIRTEENTH FLOOR! THIRTEEN!

YOU HEARD IT, DOGS! YOU HEARD IT!

GO, DOGS! GO!

IDENTICAL? BUT HOW CAN THAT--?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEY'RE IDENTICAL?

THEY'VE GOT NUMBERS ON 'EM-- SETS OF NINES FOLLOWED BY A LETTER. MACHINE GENERATED, LOOKS RANDOM.

HOW'RE WE GONNA KNOW WHICH ONE'S YOURS? THERE'S NO TIME TO--

KA-M

BANG! BAM

NO GOOD. IT'S STEEL-- *REINFORCED.*

WHERE'S *OUR* REINFORCEMENTS, HUH?

THEY'RE COMIN'-- HERE, LOOK OUT. WE GOT HIM NOW.

THERE'S NO WAY IN OR OUT OF THIS ROOM EXCEPT RIGHT THROUGH HERE!

CLACK!

GET READY, MEN!

HE SAID THERE'S DOZENS OF 'EM. HE'S GONNA HAVE TO--

WAIT-- THEY'VE STOPPED WITH THE POUNDING.

CLACK!

BOOM!

PANT PANT UGH!

PANT PANT TORA--

TORA, FIND ME THE QUICKEST WAY OUT OF HERE. I'M SHUTTING THIS DOWN.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET UGLY.

BUT YOU KNOW THEY'RE GONNA HAVE EVERY EXIT UNDER LOCK AND KEY... BATMAN?

KNOCK-KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK..

?

I-- I'LL HAVE TO SIGN OFF FOR A SEC. TORA, GET HIM OUT OF THERE IN ONE PIECE.

AT THIS HOUR? WHO COULD--?

KNOCK KNOCK KLAK

KNOCK KNOCK

!

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

C'MON, DOC. OPEN UP-- YA GOTTA BE IN.

JIM!

DOC-- D-- COUGH

JIM, MY GOD! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

OKAY-- BOSS. THERE'S A CRAWLSPACE UP ABOVE THE DROP CEILING, LEADS TO THE PIPING, AND THEN TO A VENT TO THE OUTSIDE.

GOOD. GOT IT. GOOD GIRL.

...THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM.

DON'T TELL ME THERE'S A PROBLEM.

EEEEEE--

EEEEE

LACERATED EAR-- YOU HAVE CONTUSIONS ABOVE YOUR EYES... THIS COULD BE A BROKEN NOSE, COULD BE WORSE.

EASY, JIM. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

=HNKK=

I'M TAKING YOU INTO THE OPERATING ROOM-- WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LOOK AT THAT EYE.

S'A BEAT-DOWN, KRIS.

WHO?

=HNNK= THE WOLVES, THE GOTHAM WOLVES.

WOLVES? THE ***FEDS*** DID THIS TO YOU?

THEY =KAFF= KRIS, THEY KNOW. THEY KNOW I KNOW.

KNOW WHAT?

ABOUT THE BATMAN.

SWEET JESUS! IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S STILL STANDIN'!

YOU'RE THIRTEEN STORIES ABOVE GROUND, BOSS-- ACTUALLY IT'S FOURTEEN COUNTING THE LOBBY WHICH IS TWO STORIES TALL. THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT SOME-THING-- HE'S GOT A--

THAT'S THE PROBLEM?

BLOOD SAMPLES-- LOOK AT THE DOGS! SOME KINDA ULTRA-SONIC--

NOBODY COULD'A WITHSTOOD THAT-- THAT ABUSE!

HE'S LAUGHIN' HE'S LAUGHIN'! THE BASTARD'S ENJOYING THIS!

HEH-HEH-HEH...

BATMAN-- THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM.

THERE *IS* ONE, KRIS. WE HAVE ONE HERE.

URBAN LEGEND MY ASS.

KLAK..

KLAK..

FIRE! FIRE EXTINGUISHERS! TOTALED!

THE LAB'S ON FIRE-- HURRY! =COUGH=

WHAT'S GOING ON-- WE'RE UNDER ATTACK?

NO-- IT WAS JUST HIM! JUST HIM ALONE!

OVER HERE BEFORE IT SPREADS!

ARRGH-- HE'S GONE! GONE!

THE HELL DO YA LOSE A GUY IN A RUBBER BAT-SUIT!?

FOOLS!

HE'S UP ABOVE US--

--IN THE PIPES!

HUH?

I'M TELLING YOU-- NOTHING IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT MADE ANY SENSE.

I COULDN'T GET IN TO SEE THE BODY-- BUT I GOT INTO THE CRIME SCENE ALL RIGHT.

I SAW MORE THAN THEY WANTED ME TO SEE. THERE WAS MORE THAN JUST ONE SHOOTER-- MULTIPLE TRAJECTORIES, TWO GUNS...

IT'S ALL BECOMING SO CLEAR TO ME NOW, KRIS...

HERE, THAT'S IT, LIE BACK.

YOU MEAN THE COP-KILLING THE OTHER NIGHT? THE FEDERAL MAN?

I MEAN-- HOW PRAVDZKA COULD ARRANGE FOR MY TRANSFER INTO THE G.C.P.D.... HOW I COULD MOVE UP THE RANKS SO FAST.

I WAS PUT THERE, KRIS. BY PRAVDZKA. BY THEM.

NOW I CAN SEE WHY. NOW I KNOW.

I'M SAYING I WAS PLANTED IN THE G.C.P.D.. TO BE USED SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

ME AND PROBABLY A HUNDRED OTHERS-- ALL OVER. WHO COULD'A KNOWN?

...THERE REALLY *IS* A BATMAN.

WHERE? CAN'T SEE A THING IN THIS SMOKE!

FAN OUT TO THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE FLOOR.

KEEP ON THOSE FLAMES! THE FIRE--

HE'S LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, DAMN IT!

SOMEONE GET THE DOGS-- THINK I SEE-- NO--

OVER HERE, THIS WAY I THINK-- INFRARED!

WE'LL TAKE THE STAIRWELL! COME ON, MEN! CALL DOWNSTAIRS AND TELL 'EM!

NO-- OVER THIS WAY I THINK...

THE WOLVES SHOT THAT GUY-- SHOT ONE OF THEIR OWN. SAID IT WAS BATMAN, BUT IT WASN'T. I SAW PROOF.

THEY ERASED ALL THE SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE BUT THEY MISSED THE AUXILIARIES.

I TRIED TO STEAL THE TAPE BUT THEY GOT ME FIRST. ***THEY*** DID THIS.

BUT-- THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. WHY WOULD THEY...?

THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? IT'S ALL JUST SO-- IT'S ALL JUST SO BIG, IT'S BIGGER THAN US.

FREAK IN A MASK-- WHAT'S HE TO ME? 'CEPT HE'S INNOCENT, KRIS. HE DIDN'T DO IT.

HOLD STILL, JIM. H-HOLD STILL, CAN'T--

THEY WANT ME TO HAND OVER AN INNOCENT MAN. HELP FRAME HIM.

IT'S JUST LIKE ARKHAM ONLY WORSE. THOUGHT I ESCAPED ALL THIS-- IT'S ARKHAM ASYLUM ALL OVER AGAIN.

BANG!!

KA-KLANG

KLANG...

ARKHAM? I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, KRIS.

SOMETHING BACK WHEN I WAS STILL WARDEN AT ARKHAM.

ARKHAM ASYLUM... WE HAD ALL THOSE NUTJOBS AND CRIMINALS IN THERE. ALL THOSE SUPER-VILLAINS.

HEH-- "SUPERVILLAINS." REMEMBER THAT? SUPER-VILLAINS...

WE HAD SUPERVILLAINS AT ARKHAM ASYLUM...

THIS THING I'M TELLING YOU. IT WAS IN MY LAST YEAR THERE, MY LAST MONTH.

PRAVDZKA ROLLS UP THERE ONE NIGHT, WITH HIS DOGS. JUST SHOWS UP AT THE GATES.

HE WAS NEW THEN, HE WAS JUST A KID.

A *DAMN* FANATICAL KID IN A UNIFORM AND EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF HIM.

I WAS, TOO-- WE ALL WERE-- COS' HE WAS *YOUNG*.

AND THE YOUNG ONES WERE THE WORST-- THEY WERE THE TRUE BELIEVERS, BELIEVE ME.

HE WALTZES IN THERE SAYING, "GOOD NEWS. WE FIGURED IT OUT. WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO THE SUPERVILLAIN PROBLEM."

NO MORE "REVOLVING DOOR RECIDIVISM." THAT'S HOW HE PUT IT-- THOSE WERE HIS WORDS.

HE SAID THEY FOUND A FINAL SOLUTION TO OUR SUPERVILLAIN PROBLEM.

KLANK

LOOK! THERE HE IS!

THE BUM MUST'A FOUND SOME WAY OFF THE--

WHERE? I DON'T-- OH! THERE!

YOU THERE! STOP!

HE'S GONNA BOLT! HE'S--

DAMN YOU-- I SAID *STOP!*

HNKKURGH!

T-TELEPATH...

ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS LEAVE IT IN THEIR HANDS. JUST FOR A NIGHT, JUST WALK AWAY FOR A NIGHT. TWELVE HOURS, THAT'S ALL.

AND WE DID. WE GAVE THEM ARKHAM.

AND WHEN WE CAME BACK THE NEXT DAY THEY WERE ALL GONE. EVERY ONE OF 'EM.

ALL OF 'EM. THE FEDS, THE INMATES. ALL THE FILES WE HAD ON THE INMATES. GONE.

IT WAS AS IF THEY'D NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE-- THEY JUST VANISHED.

THEY CLEARED THE PLACE. TOP TO BOTTOM... SICKENING SMELL, AMMONIA. AND SILENCE.

THE BEDDING HAD BEEN CHANGED. THE FLOORS, MOPPED AND SHINED.

THEY EVEN RESTACKED ALL THE RETURNS IN THE LIBRARY DROP BOX.

I MEAN, IT WAS REALLY CLEAN IN THERE, KRIS.

REALLY, REALLY CLEAN...

SURPRISED? YOU SHOULDN'T BE.

LATENT CLINICAL HYPERSENSITIVE PERSUASIVE ABILITY.

THEY USED TO CALL ME "ROMEO." THEN I DISCOVERED IT'S NOT JUST WOMEN WHO CAN'T RESIST THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.

HEH. CERAMIC TEETH-- CUTE.

TAP TAP

URRGH!

NOW, YOU HUMAN BEDBUG. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

SPEAK!

NO-- *URGH!* BUH-BUH--

YES, THAT'S IT. SPEAK!

BRAA-BUH-BAT-MAN!

NO, YOU SEMANTICAL DEVIL. WHO YOU ***REALLY*** ARE-- WHO YOU ARE UNDER THE MASK. SPEAK!

HNNCK! GRAA-AAH--

AFTER THAT I TRANSFERRED OUT. PRAVDZKA HELPED ME GET A GOOD POSITION IN THE G.C.P.D.. FIGURED IT WAS SOME KINDA... REWARD.

MOSTLY, I COULD STILL SLEEP AT NIGHTS. THE PLACE WAS FULL OF THE WORST KIND-- THEY WERE REALLY BAD PEOPLE, NOBODY'D MISS 'EM.

BUT THIS? THIS IS AN INNOCENT MAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

...HIS ONLY CRIME SO FAR AS I CAN TELL IS NOBODY KNOWS WHO HE IS.

I'M-- I'M BATMAN.

I CAN'T DO IT, KRIS. I CAN'T CONDEMN HIM LIKE THAT. INNOCENT MAN-- NOT HIM.

I NEED A DRINK. YOU GOT ANY-THING TO DRINK?

I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, KRIS.

THAT'S IT, YES, THAT'S IT.

YOU FEEL YOURSELF SLIPPING, DON'T YOU? YOU FEEL YOURSELF STARTING TO GIVE.

HNNKK!

MISTER MERCER? YOU WANT WE SHOULD-- WE GOT THE TRANQS.

SIR? WHAT ABOUT... SIR?

NOT.

NOW!

I NEED TO THINK-- CLEAR MY HEAD. MY HEAD HURTS.

THAT LITTLE PLACE I INHERITED UPSTATE WHEN MY GRANDAD DIED. I GO UP THERE WHEN I NEED TO GET AWAY.

THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING.

NO-- NO GUNS! WE DO THIS MY WAY!

KUD

KLANK

I SEE IT BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- SUBJECT HAS LEFT THE BUILDING.

OH, MY--

SNAP OUT OF IT-- WE HAVE NINE, **NO TEN!** TEN MEN DOWN ON THIRTEEN REQUESTING--

SUBJECT SPOTTED ON THE GROUND-- MOBILIZE UNITS TWO AND SIX TO--

HERE, IT'S MY PRIVATE-PRIVATE NUMBER. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING I'LL BE OUT IN THE COUNTRY.

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, JIM?

WHAT ***CAN*** I DO? HOLD BACK THE TIDE WITH THIS ***ONE*** HAND? WISH I COULD--

BUT I HAVE TWO BROKEN FINGERS AND I'M NOT ***LEFT-HANDED.***

UNITS TWO AND SIX, NOW, FAN OUT-- BY THE NORTH GATES. GO!

PERIMETER UP AND--

THERE! ***THERE*** HE IS, NO! IN THE SUBWAY.

GET A GROUND TEAM DOWN THERE NOW-- FOUR!-- CAN'T TRACK HIM FROM UP HERE.

ON IT, BASE. UNIT SIX, YOU HEARD 'EM, ROLL OUT! MIND TELLIN' ME WHAT WE'RE CHASING DOWN HERE? THE U.S. MARINES?

STUFF IT, THIS AIN'T A DRILL.

BATMOBILE.

WAKE UP.

ENGAGE ENGINE SEQUENCE, DISENGAGE HANGING PATTERN.

V-KEY IN, TURN.

BLINK

NOW-- DROP.

KCHAKT!!

BATMOBILE

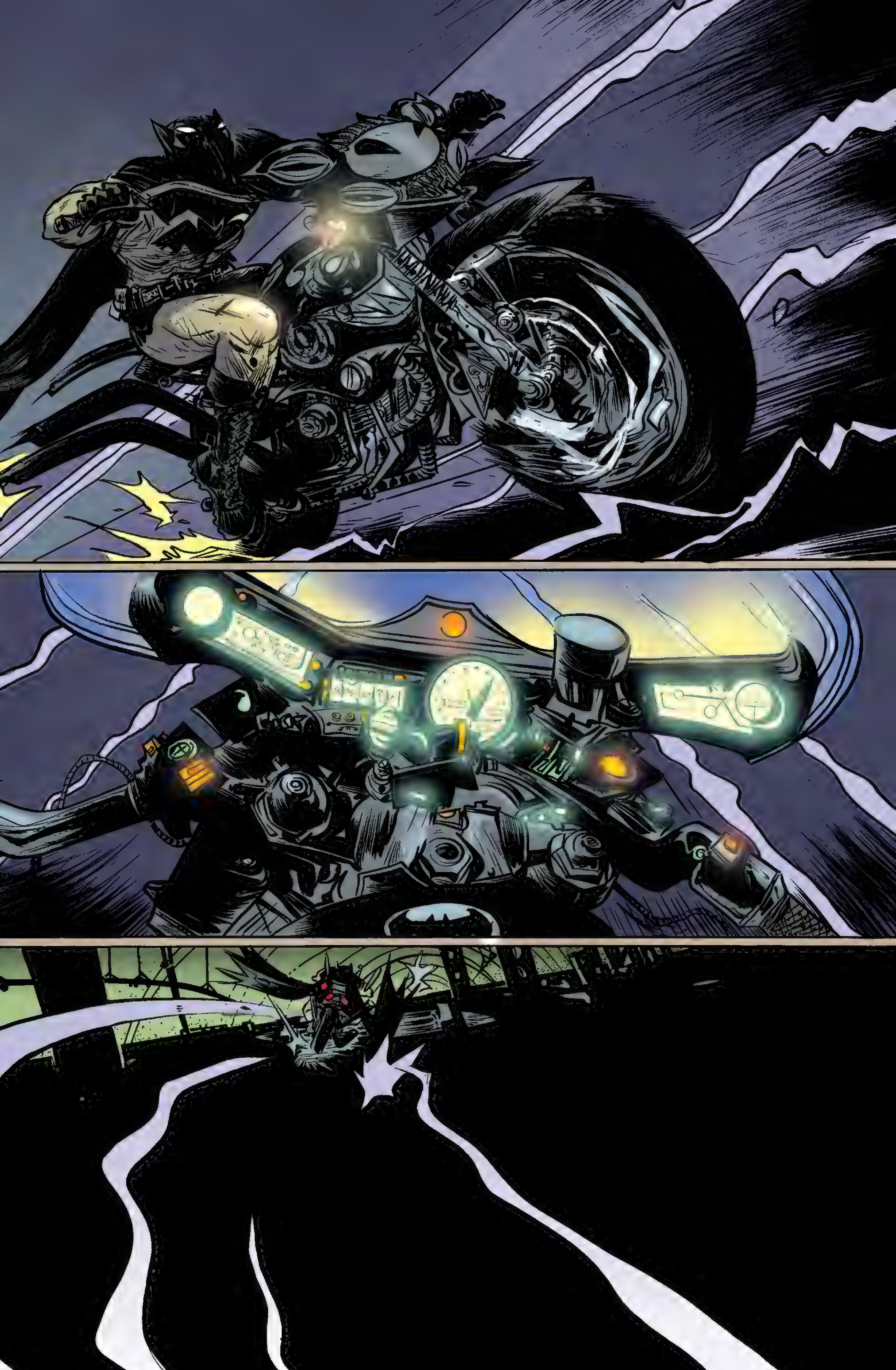
ROAR

VRRRAAAAAAAA

VRAAAP

SKREEE

...LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL.



F.P.C.

...ARE RELEASING NO FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS ALARMING INCIDENT AT THIS TIME-- NO CASUALTIES.

...STAY WITH **GOTHAM ONE** FOR FULL--

LIVE GOTH·ONE

GI LIVE

...IMPOSED ON NEIGHBORHOODS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING THE F.P.C. PRECINCT BLOCK... CONFUSED AREA RESIDENTS ARE BEING TOLD TO--

...I MEAN I WAS **JUST** GOING OUT FOR MILK--

...CAN'T SEE WHY I OUGHTA BE DETAINED FOR TWO HOURS OVER A BOTTLE OF **MILK.**

...STREET-TO-STREET CURFEWS ARE BEING SET UP ACROSS LOWER GOTHAM IN RESPONSE TO THE BOMBING AT F.P.C. HEADQUARTERS TONIGHT.

...CONFIRMS REPORTS OF AN APPARENT **TERRORIST ATTACK** ON GOTHAM'S MAIN F.P.C. BUILDING EARLIER TONIGHT.

...THIRTEENTH FLOOR OF THE FEDERAL POLICE BUILDING, RESULTING IN THE HOSPITALIZATION OF **TEN** F.P.C. EMPLOYEES. WE NOW TAKE YOU TO THE OFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE ALREADY UNDER WAY.

WE CANNOT DIVULGE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING SUSPECT'S IDENTITY AT THIS TIME, NO.

I CAN SAY HE HAS STOLEN VALUABLE PROPERTY FROM THE BUILDING. HE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT THIS IS AND IT IS TRACEABLE. IT WILL BE USELESS TO HIM. NEXT?

LIVE

MISTER PRAVDZKA-- MISTER SECRETARY-- PRAVDZKA--

YES, YOU, TASHA. IN THE FRONT.

DID YOU HEAR WHAT THEY JUST *CALLED* YOU?

THANK YOU, SIR. SIR, ARE YOU ABLE TO CONFIRM AT THIS TIME WHETHER THE TERRORIST WAS ACTING **ALONE** OR IS PART OF A **LARGER** ORGANIZATION?

IS THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE EVENTS AND THE ALLEGED BATMAN SIGHTINGS OF THE OTHER NIGHT?

NO COMMENT-- NEXT? YOU, RED TIE. GLASSES.

BAH-- *NUTS!*

MISTER SECRETARY, SIR. CAN YOU TELL US ANY-THING ABOUT THE **NATURE** OF THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE USED?

MAN-- THEY GOT NO IDEA! LISTEN TO 'EM. THEY'RE JUST REPORTING THE SAME JUNK UP AND DOWN THE LOOPS.

FLIP IT OFF. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.

I DON'T GET IT. BY NOW THEY ***MUST*** HAVE SOME FOOTAGE OF YOU OR SOME-THING.

WHY NOT JUST COME OUT WITH IT?

WHAT, AND ADMIT THERE'S SOMEBODY OUT THERE THEY ***CAN'T*** IDENTIFY OR CONTROL?

...OH, AND BY THE WAY, HE'S CALLED "BATMAN" AND HE KICKED OUR ASSES? ***GET REAL.***

ROBIN, WE'RE IN HIDING AND HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE GLIB. I ***BARELY*** MADE IT OUT OF THERE ALIVE... AND NOW THEY KNOW ***WHAT*** I STOLE.

AT LEAST THIS WAY WE ***KNOW*** IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT, RIGHT?

YEAH, YEAH, HOUCK. I KNOW. I KNOW THEY GOT GOTHAM IN LOCK-DOWN. I'VE SEEN THE LOOPS.

C'MON, HOUCK. WE'RE G.C.P.D., ***THEY'RE*** FEDERAL-- THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY ON THIS ONE, NOT US.

GORD

IF THEY WANNA KEEP US OUT, WE CAN'T DO A ***DAMN*** THING ABOUT IT.

THEY PROBABLY TAPPED THIS LINE FOR ALL I KNOW.

HUH? NO, I'M UPSTATE... NO, I GOT OUT BEFORE THE BARRICADES WENT UP.

I DUNNO... THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND SOMETHING USEFUL UP HERE. HE HAS AN ATTIC FULLA JUNK.

THERE'S A CHANCE THE OLD MAN KNEW MORE THAN HE LET ON... THEY STILL EXPECT THE FILE ON THE BATMAN TOMORROW.

I'M SURE THEY'LL WANT IT ***NOW*** MORE THAN EVER.

YEAH. YEAH, I KNOW IT WAS STUPID.

I WILL. YOU BE CAREFUL, TOO. 'NIGHT, HOUCK.

KA-

CHEK

I NEVER SAW A TOOTH WITH U.S.B. MICRO-PORTS BEFORE.

IT'S ***NOT*** A TOOTH-- IT'S AN S-TEK. A SOPHISTICATED ORGANIC PROCESSOR, HOMEGROWN FROM SECONDARY HUMAN-GENETIC TISSUE STOCK.

HERE-- THIS ONE'S BEEN FUSED WITH RUBY-CRYSTAL NANO-FIBERS, FOR CONDUCTIVITY.

A SMART-TOOTH? THEY DIDN'T TEACH US ABOUT THIS IN APPLIED BIOLOGY ***OR*** ROBOTICS...

I'M NOT SURPRISED. IT'S ILLEGAL AND IT'S NEW.

THE F.P.C. HAVE SOME-THING LIKE IT GRAFTED INTO THE EYEBALLS OF THEIR ATTACK DOGS.

SEEMS KINDA ELABORATE. COULDN'T JUST BE FOR STORAGE CAPACITY...?

VIRTUAL INVISIBILITY.

CONCEALED ORGANICS DON'T REGISTER UNDER SCANS LIKE METAL OR PLASTICS DO. THE VIC WAS A FED OR SOME-ONE POSING AS ONE.

EVEN FEDS GET STOPPED SOMETIMES.

IF IT'S A SUPER-PROCESSOR, WHERE'S ITS COOLING UNIT?

YES, I WAS WONDERING THAT MYSELF. PLANTED IN THE JAWBONE IS MY GUESS, OR ON HIS BELT. OR THERE WAS AN R.C. REMOTE SOMEPLACE NEARBY...

HE WAS DEAD WHEN I FOUND HIM SO I DIDN'T THINK TO ASK.

MADE IT EASIER GETTING THE TOOTH, THOUGH.

WAIT-- HERE.

HUH?!

BLINK

THAT'S ODD--

CLICK!

LOOKS LIKE HE KEPT ABOUT EVERYTHING HE EVER OWNED.

PHOTOS...

THE OLD MAN. I REMEMBER HIM...

HIS JAW WOULD SOMETIMES GO POP WHEN HE CHEWED HIS FOOD-- ***SCARED*** ME SILLY.

TAUGHT ME TO PLAY ***CHESS,*** TAUGHT ME MY MULTIPLICATION TABLES ***AND*** LONG DIVISION.

I REMEMBER HOW HE BOILED DOWN LEAD SLUGS TO POUR INTO THE FRONT END OF MY SOAP-BOX DERBY RACER-- TO MAKE IT GO FASTER. I MUST'A BEEN EIGHT OR NINE WHEN WE DID THAT.

COULD THIS OLD MAN HAVE ***KNOWN*** ALL OF THE BATMAN'S SECRETS?

STUPID, UGLY, INNOCUOUS LITTLE PICTURE. WHAT'S IT MEAN? I HATE IT!

TAKE YOUR TIME.

I *AM.* JUST LET ME--

THERE!

THERE. THIS PICTURE'S PREGNANT, SEE? IT LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR OLD 8-BIT, BUT IT'S LOADED WITH COMPRESSED BINARIES. NOT A BAD CYPHER, EITHER. ALMOST MISSED IT!

IF I CAN JUST-- LET ME FIDDLE WITH THE-- THERE'S ALWAYS SOME-THING IN THE--

BLZT.

CAREFUL.

WHOOP!

BLINK.

CHINESE?

HMMN...

WE CAN TRANS.TXT IT. *HERE.*

WHAT'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE FORMULAS OR CHARTS OR SOMETHING.

HE WAS A POINTMAN OR A COURIER OF SOME SORT.

IT'S A RECIPE. A BIOCHEMICAL RECIPE.

PRESS CLIPPINGS. HERE'S NOTICE OF HIS RETIREMENT...

WE HAVE ALL THESE ON FILE AT THE G.C.P.D..

THESE ARE HIS PERSONAL JOURNALS.

CRISPUS ALLEN... HOW YOUNG HE LOOKS, 2006. HMN.

THERE'S *MORE* PHOTOS, MUCH OLDER. SO THEY *DID* MEET.

1965

HOW COME THEY ALL GOT OLDER BUT BATMAN DIDN'T?

HIS LAPTOP.

"FLESHKILLER"...?

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

I DON'T RECOGNIZE HALF OF THESE MOLECULAR COMPOUNDS, DO YOU?

NO.

WAIT-- HOLD IT, HOLD IT.

THIS MUST BE SOMETHING NEW TO CHEMISTRY. WHOEVER DESIGNED THIS...

DID YOU SAY "*FLESH-KILLER*"? YOU *DID*.

YOU TWO MIND TELLIN' ME JUST WHAT THE *HELL* IS A "*FLESH-KILLER*"?!

THIS APPEARS TO BE DESIGNS FOR A DOOMS-DAY VIRUS, ROBIN. NOW BE QUIET.

LOOKS KINDA LIKE-- WEAPONIZED INFLUENZA, SOME-THING SPREAD THROUGH CASUAL RESPIRATORY CONTACT, LIKE A COLD.

ONLY IT... EATS FLESH.

OS-16, HUH? HAVEN'T SEEN A RIG THIS OLD IN A DOG'S AGE.

NOTHING, THERE'S ***NOTHING*** SPECIAL HERE.

HANG ON... THERE'S SOMETHING LOCKED AND HIDDEN ON THE HARDDRIVE HERE.

SAYS I NEED THE PASSWORD. WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?

IT-- STARTS IN THE LUNGS, IT SETTLES THERE.

TWELVE HOURS AFTER INITIAL INCUBATION, THE VIRUS HATCHES, AND SPREADS...

...IT WORMS ITS WAY OUT, GOING FROM CELL TO CELL, INCH BY INCH. OH, MY GOD.

IT WON'T STOP 'TIL THERE'S ***NOTHING,*** NOT EVEN A ***FINGERNAIL*** OF YOU LEFT... FOUR DAYS.

IT-- IT'S DESIGNED TO TARGET ONLY CERTAIN SPECIFIC GENETIC TYPES WHILE COMPLETELY IGNORING OTHERS.

SO-- SO YOU CAN MAKE IT SO IT GETS YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR AND A ***BILLION*** OTHER PEOPLE...

...BUT NOT YOU.

A BILLION PEOPLE. THAT'S A LOT OF CLEARED REAL ESTATE.

A BILLION SOULS-- THE THREAT OF IT ALONE WOULD BE A ***HELL*** OF A BIG STICK TO BRING TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE.

ASSUMING YOU HAD ANYTHING TO NEGOTIATE.

YOU'RE ***THINKING*** THIS IS ***AHMBRA...***

...YOU'RE THINKING THIS IS AHMBRA'S ***WEAPON.***

THEM OR SOMETHING LIKE THEM, YES.

AAAH, WICKED-GRIM, YOU TWO ***PARANOIACS!***

YOU ARE ***FINALLY*** GOIN' OFF THE DEEP END.

THAT'S-- FLIM-FLAM. THAT'S NOT ***FOR REAL.*** NOBODY COULD DO THAT, "FLESHKILLER"-- AHMBRA CAN'T DO ***THAT. NOBODY*** CAN DO THAT!

YOU EXPECT ME TO TAKE THAT CHANCE?

NO--NO, ROBIN'S RIGHT. HE ***MUST*** BE RIGHT! THAT CAN'T BE FOR REAL-- NOBODY'D ***EVER*** MAKE SOME-THING LIKE THAT ***FOR REAL--*** "FLESHKILLER"--

WHO WOULD'VE BELIEVED A SPLIT ATOM, ROBIN? IT WAS JUST AN EQUATION UNTIL IT WAS A MUSHROOM CLOUD.

...WE JUST KEEP FINDING BETTER AND BETTER WAYS OF KILLING EACH OTHER.

IT'S NOT "GORDON", NOT "G.C.P.D.", IT'S NOT "ROSEBUD", IT'S NOT "BARBARA"...

POWWOW

AUTHENTIC

WHATEVER IT IS, IT MUST BE IN HIS JOURNALS SOMEPLACE.

HOW 'BOUT "BATMAN", YOU IDIOT? TRY "BATMAN."

DENIED.

...NOTHING.

"THE BATMAN"? "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM"? "TBOG"? "BAT-DASH-MAN"?

DENIED-- ***ALL*** DENIED.

THESE PLANS WERE HIDING IN A TOOTH PLANTED IN THE MOUTH OF A MAN PRETENDING TO BE AN F.P.C. AGENT...

...KILLED BY THE VERY TEAM HE WAS PRETENDNG TO BE A PART OF.

A TEAM WORKING FOR THE VERY AGENCY WHO WANTS ME CAUGHT AND UNMASKED AND SHOT AND SHUT DOWN.

HRMNN...

WE JUST STEPPED INTO SOMETHING THAT'S STARTING TO LOOK LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE CORPS.

"FLESHKILLER"--

HOW'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO FIGHT CRIME IN THE FACE OF THAT?

WHAT IS CRIME? WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS NOW?

DENIED. DENIED.

IT'S NOT "BATSIGNAL", NOT "BATFILE", NOT "BATMOBILE"-- ***NOTHING!*** NOTHING'S ***WORKING.***

KEEP GOING, KEEP LOOKING. COOL IT. IT'S GOTTA BE IN HERE SOMEPLACE.

F.W.T.P.

7-12 1980

TAP TAP TAP.

"HARVEY DENT." "JOKER"-- "THE JOKER"--

I GOT HERE AS ***SOON*** AS I COULD-- POLICE BARRICADES EVERYWHERE. ***BARELY*** GOT THROUGH.

I WANNA KNOW JUST WHAT THE ***HELL*** WERE YOU ***THINKING?!*** SETTING OFF A BOMB IN A FEDERAL LAB?

YOU COULD'A ***KILLED*** SOMEONE! YOU COULD'A KILLED ***YOURSELF!***

SO MUCH FOR YOUR COUNTLESS LECTURES ABOUT ***SECRECY*** AND ***STEALTH!***

THEY HAD ***EVIDENCE.*** HE ***HAD*** TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE.

EVIDENCE! IT'S ***ALL OVER*** THE NEWS! THEY PRACTICALLY ***NAMED*** YOU!

MOM-- WAIT! ***LISTEN!***

WELL-- ***SAY*** SOME-THING!?

SIT DOWN, DOC--

NO! NO, I ***WON'T*** SIT DOWN. ***YOU*** SIT DOWN.

I SAT DOWN BEFORE WHEN YOU DID QUESTIONABLE THINGS-- ***STUPID*** THINGS!

SAID NOTHING!

IT'S ***ME*** WHO PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER WHEN YOU WERE A GARBAGE BAG ON DEATH'S DOOR!

IT'S ***ME*** WHO LET YOU USE MY DAUGHTER'S BRAINS LIKE A-- A ***DAMN*** LIBRARY CARD!

MOM--!

ME WHO LOOKED AWAY WHEN YOU TOOK IN A DEFENSELESS ORPHAN-- SAID NOTHING ABOUT HOW YOU RAISED HIM--

GROWN MAN IN A COSTUME-- I MUST BE THE ONE WHO'S ***CRAZY!***

THAT IS ENOUGH!

ALL THIS-- THIS TALK ABOUT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE!

YOUR ELEGANT JOHN LOCKE AND YOUR "LAISSEZ-FAIRE"!

YOU'RE NOT JUST JEOPARDIZING YOUR OWN LIFE, MISTER! YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING ***OURS!***

I ***JUST*** WANT TO KNOW-- WOULD YOU HAVE TORCHED THAT BUILDING IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WERE PEOPLE IN THERE!?

HOW COULD YOU KNOW ***NO ONE'D*** BE KILLED-- HOW COULD YOU BE SO SURE?

=SIGH= RUNNIN' OUTTA IDEAS. SO TIRED-- SO TIRED--

NO. C'MON, YOU GOTTA KEEP GOING.

TAP. TAP.

"OSWALD COBBLEPOT"--
"MAD MONK"? "CRIME ALLEY"--?
I DUNNO--"SECRET FILE"?

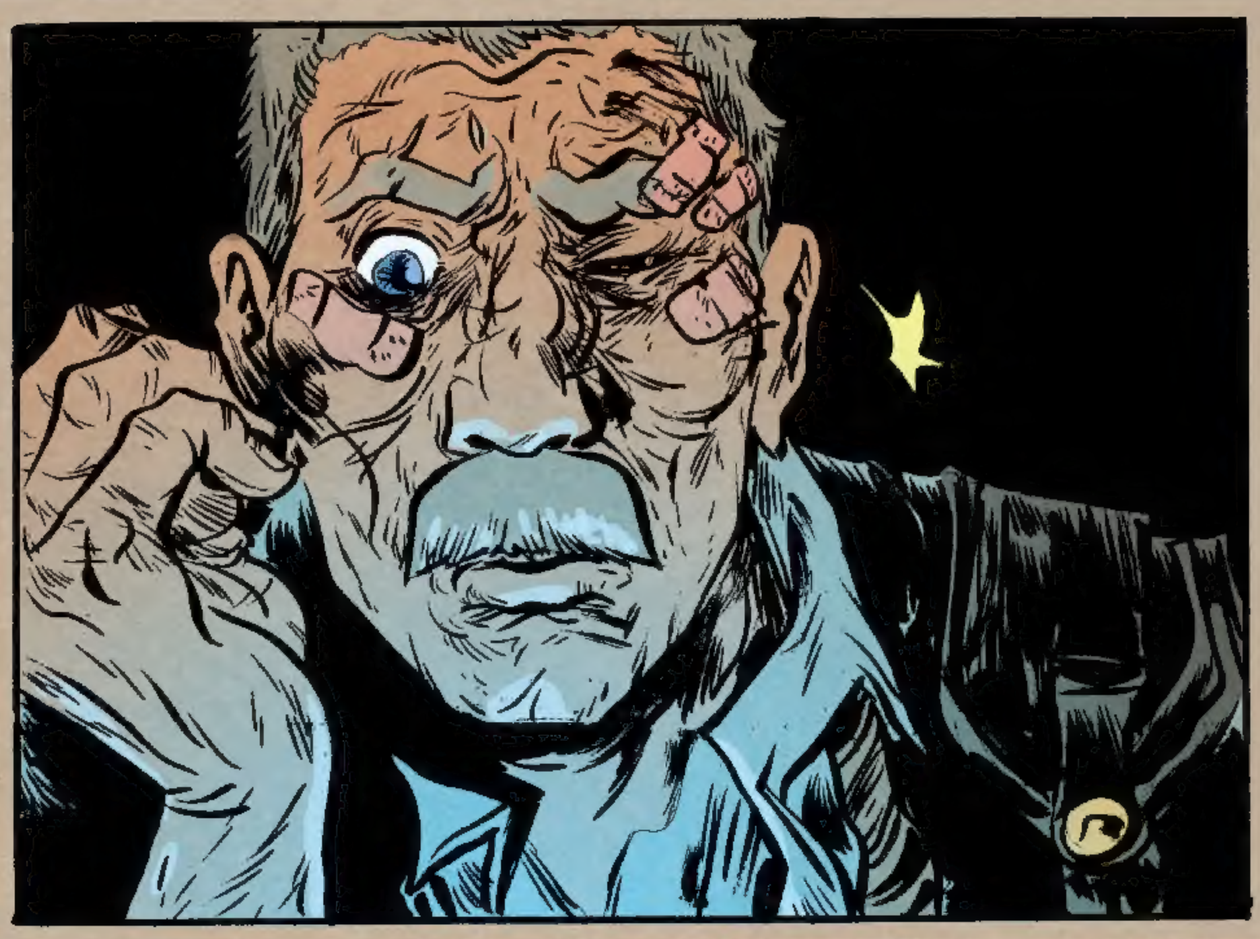
DENIED,
ALL DENIED.

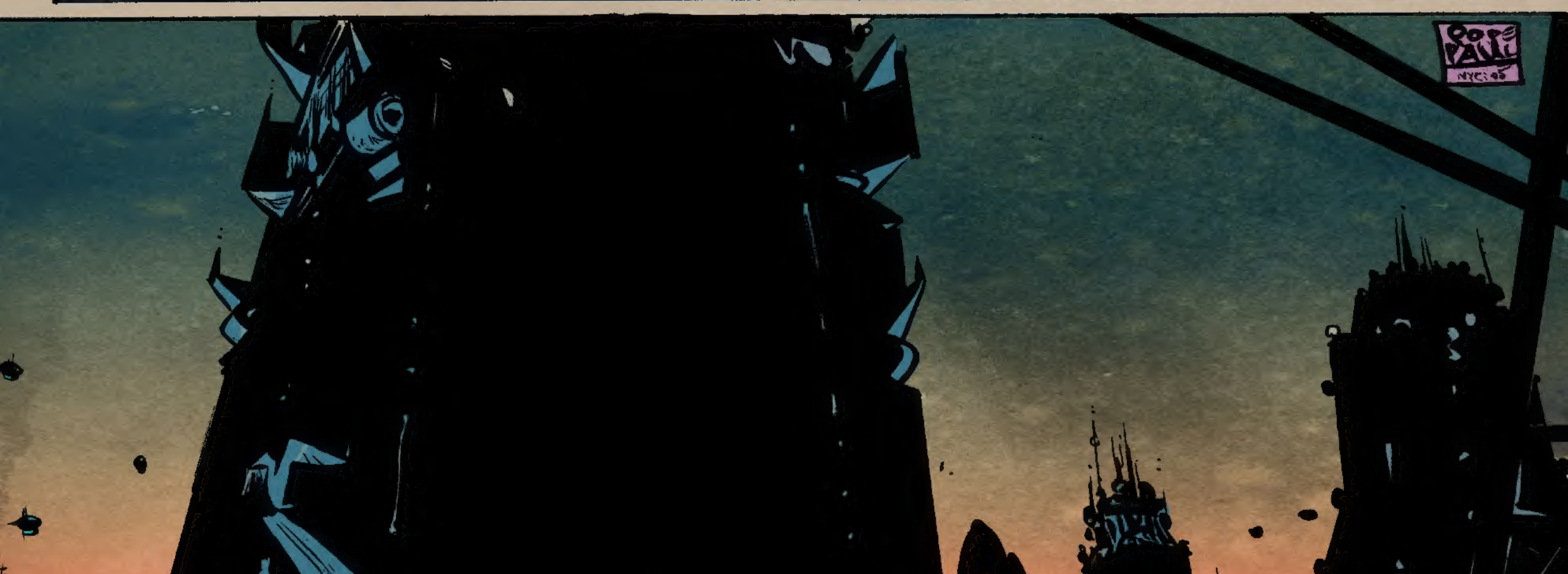
SIGH
"BRUCE WAYNE"?

TAP.

WELCOME, COMMISSIONER.

OPENING.





PROVISIONAL CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM RELEVANT FACTS CONCERNING CASE #3121163221-A:

1.1- SUSPECT IS BELIEVED TO BE A CAUCASIAN MALE BETWEEN 24 AND 60 YEARS OF AGE, PROJECTED TO BE WELL OVER 6 FEET TALL, WEIGHING BETWEEN 225 AND 250 LBS. SUSPECT EXHIBITED SIGNS OF BEING WELL TRAINED IN MARTIAL COMBAT TECHNIQUES, DISPLAYING AN ALMOST OLYMPIAN DEGREE OF ATHLETIC PROWESS, AND IS TO BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS. IT IS STRONGLY BELIEVED SUSPECT WAS WEARING AN EXO-ENHANCEMENT SUIT DURING THIS ENTIRE EVENT. NO DISTINGUISHING FACIAL FEATURES HAVE BEEN RECORDED, OWING TO THE FACT THAT SUSPECT WAS OBSERVED TO BE WEARING A DARK MASK AND CLOAK THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT.

2.1- SUSPECT IS BEING CALLED "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM" BASED ON THE OBSCURE CHARACTER OF GOTHAM URBAN LEGEND. HE IS WANTED FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING THE MURDER OF FPC AGENT #34112. IT IS BELIEVED SUSPECT WAS ACTING ALONE THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE EVENT. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER SUSPECT HAS ANY GROUP AFFILIATION. AT THIS TIME, SUSPECT'S MOTIVES REMAIN UNKNOWN. THROUGHOUT THIS EVENT, SUSPECT SAID NOTHING AND ISSUED NO DEMANDS, PLEAS, STATEMENTS OF INTENT, OR COMMUNICATIONS OF ANY KIND.

3.1- SUSPECT REMAINS AN UNCLASSIFIED, UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUAL KNOWN TO BE IN POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS, POSSIBLY ILLEGAL TACTICAL WEAPONRY. APPROACH ONLY WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CAUTION.

SUSPECT IS WANTED FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

WE STRESS TO ALL AGENTS: THE "BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM" IS TO BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, A LEVEL-SIX CRIMINAL. ORDERS ARE TO APPREHEND ALIVE. REPEAT-SUBJECT IS TO BE APPREHENDED ALIVE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE'S IS LEATHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED.

ADDENDUM: THE FOLLOWING ARE THE TWO INITIAL POLICE TRANSCRIPTS OF GOTHAM "BAT-MAN" SIGHTING INCIDENT, RELEASED TO THE MEDIA, 11-28-39.

GOTHAM NEWS ONE HAS OBTAINED, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BUREAU CHIEF WALLIS GRATCH, OFFICIAL GCPD TRANSCRIPTS OF INITIAL CALLS TO THE DISTRICT DISPATCHER RELATING TO THE "BAT-MAN" SIGHTINGS FROM LATE THURSDAY NIGHT. NOTE: TAPE TRANSCRIPTS HAVE BEEN PRE-EDITED BY GCPD TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

DISPATCH #1 COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: TWO-BRAVO-SIX, TWO-BRAVO-SIX. COPY.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: GO AHEAD.
COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: PLEASE PROCEED TO XXXX CYPRESS STREET. A COMPLAINANT IS ADVISING OF A LARGE WILD ANIMAL ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING. THE ADDRESS IS XXXX CYPRESS.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL?
COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: SHE COULDN'T SAY. SHE SAID IT WAS A LARGE ANIMAL. SHE WASN'T SURE. SHE SAID IT WAS A LARGE MONKEY OR A MAN WITH A DOG'S FACE OR A BAT'S FACE.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: A BAT'S FACE?
COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: YES.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: (AUDIBLE LAUGHTER IN BACKGROUND) CLEAR.
COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: YOU'RE CLEAR.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: TWO-BRAVO-SIX. WHAT WAS THE ADDRESS ON THAT DOG-FACED MAN AGAIN?
COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER #62155: XXXX CYPRESS.
GCPD VEHICLE 2-B-6: CHECK. IS THIS A JOKE?

BATMAN: YEAR 100 #3
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A FORGOTTEN ICON FROM THE PAST — WANTED FOR MURDER IN THE FUTURE!

GOTHAM. 2039.

A MURDERED FEDERAL AGENT. A CONTINGENT OF WASHINGTON'S BEST SPOOKS HOT ON THE SUSPECT'S TRAIL. AMID THE CHAOS, G.C.P.D'S DETECTIVE GORDON, GRANDSON OF THE FORMER COMMISSIONER, LAUNCHES HIS OWN INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERS THAT THE MAN THEY ARE CHASING IS A MAN WHO SHOULDN'T EXIST AT ALL.

VISIONARY WRITER/ARTIST PAUL POPE PRESENTS A DARK, DYSTOPIAN WORLD DEVOID OF PRIVACY, ONE FILLED WITH GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACIES, PSYCHIC POLICE, HOLOGRAPHIC CALLER-ID, AND ABSOLUTELY NO ROOM FOR "SECRET IDENTITIES." A SCI-FI FUTURE WHERE EVERYTHING IS KNOWN BY EVERYONE – YET THERE IS ONE BIZARRE ANOMALY...THE BATMAN!

A MYSTERY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS...
100 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

BATMAN: YEAR 100

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